

Message Text

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15

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 SAM-01 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 /072 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7492

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USUNMISSION NEW YORK 1497

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 8361

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR KS KN

SUBJECT: SOUTH-NORTH COORDINATING COMMITTEE (SNCC)

REF: A SEOUL 8310; B SEOUL 8077

SUMMARY: DECEMBER 14 SPOKESMEN'S MEETING PRODUCED NO
PROGRESS IN SOUTH-NORTH DIALOGUE. END SUMMARY.

1. SNCC SPOKESMEN HELD ONE HOUR FIFTY MINUTE MEETING
AT PANMUNJOM DECEMBER 14. ALTHOUGH NORTH HAD CALLED
MEETING TO DISCUSS DECEMBER 18 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
MEETING (REF A), NORTH SPOKESMAN CHON KUM-CHOL DID NOT
INDICATE WHETHER OR NOT HIS SIDE WOULD AGREE TO
COUNCIL MEETING. INSTEAD CHON CALLED ON SOUTH SIDE
TO REPLACE SOME OF ITS COUNCIL MEMBERS ON GROUND THAT
HE IS MEMBER OF ROK CIA. MEETING PRODUCED NO
RESULTS AND CHON PROPOSED HOLDING ANOTHER SPOKESMEN'S
MEETING DECEMBER 16.

2. SOUTH SIDE SPOKESMAN LEE TONG-BOK TOLD EMBOFF
DECEMBER 16 THAT SOUTH, TO AVOID INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF
SPOKESMEN'S CONTACTS BY NORTH, WOULD NOT REPLY TO CALL
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FOR ANOTHER SPOKESMEN'S MEETING. HOWEVER, HE EXPECTS

THAT NORTH MAY MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENT EXPLOITING HIS REFUSAL TO RETURN TO PANMUNJOM. HE SAID THAT NORTH HAD CLEVERLY AVOIDED PROBLEM OF RESPONDING TO SOUTH'S EXECUTIVE COUNCIL PROPOSAL AND THAT IT IS NOW SOUTH WHICH IS IN THE UNCOMFORTABLE POSITION OF HAVING TO DO THE RESPONDING.

3. LEE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED UNHAPPILY THAT SOUTH HAD DISTURBED A HORNET'S NEST BY RAISING THE EXECUTIVE

COUNCIL ISSUE. HE SAID THAT THE PRESENCE OF A ROK CIA MEMBER ON THE COUNCIL HAS GIVEN NORTH AN ISSUE WHERE BEFORE IT HAD NONE, AN ISSUE WHICH WOULD BE PRESSED BY NORTH EVEN IF SOUTH WITHDREW ITS PROPOSAL. (CHON AT THEIR MEETING HAD LINKED THE CIA ISSUE WITH A RECENT JACK ANDERSON COLUMN REPORTING THAT PRESIDENT PARK HAD FINGERED THE ROK CIA IN THE KIM TAE-CHUNG KIDNAPPING, WHICH NORTH HAS LONG CITED AS FACTOR LEADING TO DEADLOCK OF DIALOGUE.

4. LEE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH SOUTH SIDE HAS APPARENTLY SUFFERED SOME TACTICAL LOSSES IN RECENT MANEUVERING, HE FEELS THAT NORTH LOST MORE BY REFUSING TO HOLD DEPUTY CO-CHAIRMEN'S MEETING ON DECEMBER 4. HE SAID NORTH WAS HIT HARD BY ROK STATEMENT ON DMZ TUNNEL ISSUED WHEN MEETING POSTPONED (REF B), DESPITE FACT THAT PYONGYANG PUBLICLY DISMISSED ROK CHARGES. HE MENTIONED THAT CHON HAD CRITICIZED ROK STATEMENT PRIVATELY TO HIM BUT HAD NOT RAISED TUNNEL IN THEIR MEETING, INDICATING TO SOUTH THAT PYONGYANG PREFERS TO TRY TO RECOUP BY FOCUSING ON CIA ISSUE. WHERE SOUTH IS MORE VULNERABLE.

5. ACCORDING TO LEE, ROKG HAS NOW DECIDED TO FOREGO FURTHER INITIATIVES FOR TIME BEING AND KEEP LOW PROFILE IN THE HOPE THAT DEPUTY CO-CHAIRMEN'S SESSION NOW SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 8 CAN BE HELD WITHOUT FURTHER COMPLICATIONS. SOUTH THEREFORE WILL NOT PRESS FOR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING.

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6. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT SNCC CONTACTS MAY BE INEXORABLY SLIPPING TO THE LOWER LEVEL DESIRED BY NORTH, DESPITE EFFORTS BY ROK TO MAINTAIN DIALOGUE BETWEEN DEPUTY CO-CHAIRMEN.
ERICSON

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